

# RYUKOKU GLOBAL VISION 2023



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Ryukoku University  
Center for the Promotion of Global Education

You,  
Unlimited



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## I . Formulation of RYUKOKU GLOBAL VISION 2023

Under the slogan "Enterprise and Coexistence: Ryukoku University Makes an Echo in the World" included in the Long Term Plan V(2010-2019), the promotion of education internationalization was established through the Action Plan "Vision 2020 - Ryukoku Makes an Echo in the World". Furthermore, we have endeavored to work on each action plan with the aim of realizing the image of Ryukoku University in 2020, set forth in the Fifth Long Term Plan, which is that "Students and Faculty Members will conduct international exchanges and joint research to further promote the internationalization of education and research. A multicultural and symbiotic campus will be developed, providing infrastructure for education, research, and social contribution, and we will become a university with an extensive international network".

As a result, we have grown into a university with an extensive international network. The number of our International Partners has expanded to 175 Universities/Institutions in 48 countries around the world (General Memorandum of Understanding) and 116 Universities/Institutions in 34 countries (Student Exchange Agreement), respectively. In addition, by actively promoting the increase of Student Exchange Partners and short-term study abroad programs, the number of outbound students has already exceeded the target value of 750 (established within the Fifth Long Term Plan), and was expanded to 766 in 2018. However, the number of inbound international students has been steadily decreasing since the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the peak number of international students enrolled in 2011 decreased to 421 in the latter half of 2019. While other major university competitors have seen an increase in the number of international students, we must say that our university is in an extremely rare and critical situation.

In view of this situation, Ryukoku Global Vision 2023 will increase the number of outbound students (mainly Japanese), in line with the enacted "Ryukoku Strategic Plan 400" (2020-2039). Furthermore, in preparation for the multicultural society of the near future, all Faculties will aim to actively accept international students in order to develop human resources who are able to attend to "a society which accepts diversity and can co-exist with foreigners". For that purpose, by setting recruitment personnel for international student admissions, by developing admissions procedures which actively utilize the "Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students", and by expanding opportunities for international students to take entrance exams, the number of admitted international students will recover in a V-shape. This will form a foundation for achieving the minimum required for the global standard for the total international student number of five percent or more, contributing to our achievement in the following four years (2027) and eight years (2031).

In addition, we will provide various opportunities for students to engage in cross-cultural dialogue (the admittance of international students, outbound mobility for our students, developing international general education subjects) without limitation to the achievement of numerical goals. A major aim of those areas providing international support is to contribute to world peace by creating and nurturing global citizens, with a Ryukoku flavor, who possess the qualities of *Magokoro*.

Furthermore, in light of the intensifying competition for international students not only in Japan but also across national borders, we will improve our 'Asia University' ranking through the UK-based university evaluation institution "Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) as well as Times Higher Education. We will aim to strengthen and connect our efforts, establishing our position as a "university chosen by students from all of the world, especially within Asia".

Entering the 21st century, we are facing natural disasters and infectious diseases on

a global scale which undermine our lifestyles and values. It has become impossible to solve problems at the regional level alone, and cooperation with other countries is indispensable for building a sustainable society. On the other hand, in the situation where the Novel Coronavirus makes it extremely difficult for people to physically move across national borders, international cooperation and expansion related to education and research cannot be achieved by conventional methods. In order to realize Ryukoku Global Vision 2023 (tentative name), I wish to view this difficult situation as "an opportunity to take on the challenge of making a difference", and do so with flexible and creative thinking.

October 2020  
Takashi Irisawa  
President, Ryukoku University

## II Enhancing our Global Presence (4 Categories and 21 Projects)

### 1. Promotion of Study Abroad 6 Projects

- ① Achievement of 1,000 Outbound Students
- ② Development of Short-Term Study Abroad (Including New Outbound Mobility Opportunities)
- ③ Establishment of Subsidy Assistance for Study Abroad
- ④ Establishment of Measures to Promote Outbound Student Exchange
- ⑤ Establishment of Global Supporter System
- ⑥ Expansion of Global Career Challenge Program (GCCP)

### 2. Expansion of Admitted International Students / Environment Improvement 7 Projects

- ⑦ Achievement of 700 International Students
- ⑧ Implementation of a New Entrance Examination System and Promotion of Further Reforms
- ⑨ Achievement of 150 Student Exchange Partner Universities/Institutions
- ⑩ Securing International Students through Collaboration Between Universities
- ⑪ Enhancement of our Japanese Language Education Program
- ⑫ Enhancement of Public Relations Overseas
- ⑬ Enhancement of Employment Support System for International Students

### 3. Education / Research Environment Improvement 4 Projects

- ⑭ Development of English Language-based Degree Programs
- ⑮ Active Utilization and New Development of Overseas Bases
- ⑯ Development of a University-wide Dual Degree Program
- ⑰ Development and Expansion of International General Education Subjects

### 4. Strengthening of Governance to Promote Globalization 4 Projects

- ⑱ University-wide Efforts Regarding Institutional Ranking
- ⑲ Enhancement of Outbound Crisis Management System
- ⑳ Reorganization of an Administration which Responds Effectively to Internationalization
- ㉑ Strengthening the Ability of Administrative Staff to Respond to Internationalization

### III 21 Projects

#### 1. Promotion of Study Abroad

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R-Globe Project ①	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Achievement of 1,000 Outbound Students	1-11-①

Our achievement target for 2023 is 1,000 Outbound Students.

(It is assumed that the spread of the Novel Coronavirus will subside after 2021 and that international exchanges will return to normal.)

※As a measure to further improve our THE Japan ranking, we will build a system that considers all travel such as overseas training camps, field surveys, study abroad at one's private expense during a leave of absence or vacation, and individual travel.

R-Globe Project ②	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Development of Short-Term Study Abroad (Including New Outbound Mobility Opportunities)	1-11-①

While continuing to work on the development of a credit-bearing short-term study abroad program available university-wide, we will also consider the possibility of new outbound mobility (online international exchange, etc.) which can be implemented even if infectious diseases occur worldwide.

At the same time, we will strive to develop a program in which students with disabilities can participate with peace of mind.

R-Globe Project ③	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Establishment of Subsidy Assistance for Study Abroad	1-11-②

We will endeavor to disseminate information widely about the Alumni Association overseas study program incentives, establish a support system for students who have difficulties studying abroad economically, and secure financial resources so the system can be continued even after support from the Alumni Association has ended.

R-Globe Project ④	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Establishment of Measures to Promote Outbound Student Exchange	1-11-①

In order to encourage participation in exchange programs and to promote the fulfillment of language requirements, teaching materials in the Language Study Area (established in the Global Commons) will be enhanced, and free language test courses (i.e. IELTS) will be offered.

R-Globe Project ⑤	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Establishment of Global Supporter System	1-10-②、1-10-③

As the leader in promoting student outbound mobility and globalization within the university, we have established a new student organization [Global Supporters], centered on those who have participated in the Global Career Challenge Program (GCCP) and those who have studied abroad. It is a peer program that supports students' international understanding.

R-Globe Project ⑥	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Expansion of Global Career Challenge Program (GCCP)	1-15-⑥

Through the Global Career Challenge Program, etc. we will raise international understanding and awareness in students from their early years at the university and increase the number of students who actively engage in study abroad and internships. Through participation in various programs, we will work to develop students who will form the core global human resources of our university.

## 2. Expansion of Admitted International Students / Environment Improvement

R-Globe Project ⑦	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Achievement of 700 International Students	1-11-②

By 2023 we will increase the number of inbound international students to 700 and form a foundation for achieving the minimum clearing standard required for the global standard of 5% or more (about 1,100) of international students to the total number of students. This will lead to the achievement of our four-year target (for 2027) or eight-year target (for 2031).

(It is assumed that the spread of the Novel Coronavirus will subside after 2021 and that international exchanges will return to normal.)

R-Globe Project ⑧	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Implementation of a New Entrance Examination System and Promotion of Further Reforms	1-5-⑥

From the time of entrance exams for international students eligible for admission in April 2021, (1) active utilization of the EJU and pass/fail judgement by scoring will be used, (2) recruitment personnel will be set for International Student Admissions, and multiple opportunities for International Students to take the entrance exam will be implemented. Through the establishment of these three admissions reforms, we will endeavor to significantly increase the number of applicants.

In addition to considering the pre-admission Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students as well as progressing in the development of a program which allows students to obtain a degree in English,

we will also consider the implementation of an English-based entrance examination.

R-Globe Project ⑨	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Achievement of 150 Student Exchange Partner Universities/Institutions	1-11-④

We will set a target of 150 universities. To achieve our goal of 1,000 outbound students and 700 inbound students, we will strive to acquire applicants for international exchange in both directions. While most of the regular international students at our university come from East Asia, we take it as our position that students accepted from other regions through international exchanges are very important in contributing to our diversity.

R-Globe Project ⑩	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Securing International Students through Collaboration Between Universities	1-5-⑦

With a focus on Shenyang University (including its affiliated high school) and other institutions with which we have already established a comprehensive partnership agreement, we will consider measures to establish a system for the sustainable admission of exemplary international students (Recommendation-based Admissions System, etc.) and secure a lead to the quantitative expansion of international students.

R-Globe Project ⑪	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Enhancement of our Japanese Language Education Program	1-11-⑤

We will enhance Japanese language education for international students undertaking studies in general education subjects on Fukakusa Campus, in the Japanese Culture and Language Program (JCLP), and in the Japanese Experience Program in Kyoto (JEP Kyoto), based in the Language Education Program Management Coordination Meeting. In addition, we will work to strengthen quality assurance in Japanese language education and consider future developments.

R-Globe Project ⑫	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Enhancement of Public Relations Overseas	2-4-⑦、A-1-⑤、4-3-④

We will strengthen our provision of admissions information overseas while utilizing overseas bases to secure exemplary international students. In addition, we will actively develop recruitment activities utilizing the global bases of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji Sect and work to attract international students from throughout the world.

R-Globe Project ⑬	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Enhancement of Employment Support System for International Students	1-15-⑤

As the number of international students increases (at the undergraduate level in particular), the employment support system for international students will be strengthened in collaboration with the Career Center. In addition, we will actively expand the internship acceptance limit for international students, and work to raise their awareness about employment from their early years at the university.

### 3. Education / Research Environment Improvement

R-Globe Project ⑭	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Development of English Language-based Degree Programs	1-8-⑥

In order to accept a diverse range of international students, it is essential to develop an undergraduate-level degree program in the English language (which has already become a standard at Japanese universities). We will endeavor to work on the development of a program which allow students to obtain a degree in English, centered within the Faculty of International Studies, Department of Global Studies. In developing this program, there will be a considerable financial burden (such as the personnel cost for Faculty Members), so measures will be considered by which the burden will be reduced by partially utilizing a university policy frame by which the cost will not be concentrated only on the relevant Faculty.

R-Globe Project ⑮	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Active Utilization and New Development of Overseas Bases	2-4-⑦、A-1-⑤、4-3-④

In addition to the effective use of the existing Berkeley Center (RUBeC) and Hawai'i Office (RUHO), we will consider specific measures for establishing overseas bases and attracting international students through the utilization of Hongwanji's global network.

R-Globe Project ⑯	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Development of a University-wide Dual Degree Program	1-8-⑦

We will conclude separate dual-degree program agreements with overseas Partner Universities (such as the University of Central Lancashire in the United Kingdom) and start operations as soon as possible. Regarding the cost burden, in order to reduce the financial burden on students, we will ask the Alumni Association and Shinwakai to consider providing support.

R-Globe Project ⑰	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Development and Expansion of Global General Education Subjects	1-7-⑤

We will aim to merge Japan-related elective subjects and special lectures (taught in Japanese and English) within the Japanese Experience Program in Kyoto (a program established specifically for exchange students), as well as JEP-E subjects, with intra-faculty liberal arts subjects and faculty-based specialized subjects to create Global Subjects\* (\*tentative name). In addition, we will build an environment in which both international students and Japanese students can study together through courses in which the instructor wishes to accept international students (Recommended Courses for International Students).

#### 4. Strengthening of Governance to Promote Globalization

R-Globe Project ⑱	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
University-wide Efforts Regarding Institutional Ranking	2-4-⑥

- 1) UniRank Established Brand as the World's #1 Buddhist University  
Ryukoku University was ranked #1 in the Buddhist University World Rankings for two consecutive years, through the university ranking institution UniRank. In an effort to solidify our position as the world's leading Buddhist university, we will work to strengthen the power of our brand by actively inviting researchers in Buddhism, as well as holding World Religion Forums.
- 2) Improvement of our QS/THE Asian University Ranking  
We will aim to be ranked within the top 400 of the QS/THE Asian University Rankings, and will strengthen our efforts to improve our point scores in each area. Also, focusing on communications with QS/THE, we will conduct a survey regarding marketing methods that lead to improved rankings.

R-Globe Project ⑲	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Enhancement of Outbound Crisis Management System	1-11-⑥

Based on the Overseas Crisis Management Manual (established in April 2015), enhancements will be made with the addition of an infectious disease crisis management section to support global pandemics, such as the Novel Coronavirus which appeared in 2020. Furthermore, a crisis management system will be developed to quickly respond to such incidents as accidents, illnesses, and natural disasters concerning outbound students located overseas, as well as to confirm their safety. We will establish a system by which information can be provided in a prompt manner. In addition, the crisis management system for inbound international students will be improved.

R-Globe Project⑳	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Reorganization of an Administration which Responds Effectively to Internationalization	1-11-⑥

Amongst our Graduate Schools, the Graduate School of International Studies and the Graduate School of Economics have already implemented programs which allow students to obtain a degree in English. There is an increasing demand for English support in various situations such as in public relations, admissions procedures, orientation at the time of entrance, and daily student guidance. At present, not all Faculty Offices have such an admissions system in place, so we are considering the establishment of a department to handle the organization of those English-based programs -- for example, the Corresponding Team and the Graduate School English Program Office\* (\*tentative name), through which a system will be built to provide intensive and efficient handling.

R-Globe Project㉑	Corresponding University-Wide Concept 400Act-P No.
Strengthening the Ability of Administrative Staff to Respond to Internationalization	2-9-⑥

In order to cultivate an Administrative Staff which is able to respond to globalization, we will consider not only overseas higher education training and language training, but also the addition of language proficiency to the hiring conditions for new Administrative Staff Members. In addition, a new TOEIC test fee subsidy system will be established to encourage Administrative Staff Members to take the test. The target value for the percentage of staff who have obtained 800 points will be set at 20%.

In addition, Administrative Staff Members with various backgrounds and global versatility (including foreigners) will be hired.

#### IV Reference Data

##### 1. Simulation: Achievement of 700 International Students

International Student Category	Number of Students	Supplemental Information
Regular International Students	510	Expected to increase due to the setting of recruitment personnel (from previous 35 → 124) for International Student Admissions from 2020
Japanese Culture and Language Program Students	40	
Exchange Students	125	
Other (Special International Students · Research Students, etc.)	25	
Total	700	

##### 2. Changes in Outbound International Student Numbers from Ryukoku University

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
452	452	418	525	494	450	441	636	685	766	697